Transfer of telecom circles to MTNL

3845. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to transfer the two metro telecom circles of Chennai and Calcutta to MTNL;

(b) whether Government also propose to moot joint venture for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are also thinking to give some more telecom circles to the MTNL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of reply to (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of reply to (d) above, the question does not arise.

Inadequate communication facility in Meghalaya

3846. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the communication facility in Meghalaya is not adequate for rapid industrialisation and export growth; and

(b) if so, the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Meghalaya State consists of 61 telephone exchanges, all being electronic type. All District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters are having exchanges with STD facility on reliable communication media. It is also planned to make telephone available on demand in N. E. Region including Meghalaya by March, 2001. Modern